

## Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AGR-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 STR-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 OMB-01

SSO-00 INRE-00 RSR-01 /081 W  
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O 030130Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2144

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, NU

SUBJECT: FABRITEX STRIKE

REF: STATE 152373

1. APPROXIMATELY SIX HUNDRED EMPLOYEES OF FABRITEX, NICARAGUA'S SECOND LARGEST AND MOST MODERN TEXTILE FACTORY, CALLED A STRIKE ON MONDAY, JULY 30. FABRITEX IS 25 PERCENT OWNED BY A COLOMBIAN SUBSIDIARY OF BURLINGTON-MILLS, 50 PERCENT BY NICARAGUAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS AND 25 PERCENT BY THE IFC. THE STRIKERS REMAINED ON THE PREMISES OF THE FACTORY. AT THE REQUEST OF FABRITEX THE NATIONAL GUARD WAS CALLED IN AND THE STRIKERS PEACEFULLY LEFT ON TUESDAY NIGHT, JULY 31. LEGAL CHARGES MAY BE BROUGHT AGAINST THE WORKERS FOR ALLEGEDLY HOLDING HOSTAGE SOME EMPLOYEES WHO REFUSED TO JOIN THE STRIKE AND WANTED TO LEAVE. PARTICIPANTS IN THE STRIKE DENY, HOWEVER, THAT THEY HELD ANY HOSTAGES. THE LABOR MINISTER IS HOPEFUL THAT THIS ELEMENT OF THE STRIKE CAN BE TONED DOWN AND THAT NO CHARGES WILL BE BROUGHT SO THAT AN EQUITABLE STRIKE SETTLEMENT CAN BE REACHED AT AN EARLY DATE. MANAGEMENT AT FABRITEX HAS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED ITS WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE.

2. THE FABRITEX UNION IS NOMINALLY AFFILIATED WITH THE  
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SOCIAL CHRISTIAN LABOR CONFEDERATION, AND IT HAS A COLLECTIVE

BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH FABRITEX.

3. THE STRIKE WAS PRECIPITATED BY THE RECENT FIRING OF SOME  
60 FABRITEX EMPLOYEES INCLUDING SEVERAL UNION LEADERS.  
THE WORKERS ALSO ARE REPORTEDLY DEMANDING A 30-40 PERCENT  
INCREASE IN SALARIES. THE LABOR MINISTRY DECLARED THE STRIKE  
ILLEGAL ON JULY 30 UNDER NICARAGUA'S LABOR CODE, WHICH IS  
VERY STRICT IN ITS INTERPRETATION OF "LEGAL" STRIKES.

4. COMMENT: THIS APPEARS TO BE A LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTE IN  
WHICH WE SEE NO APPARENT POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE AT PRESENT,  
BUT WHICH WE WILL BE CAREFULLY FOLLOWING.  
SHELTON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** elyme  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973MANAGU03311  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 STATE 152373  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** elyme  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FABRITEX STRIKE  
**TAGS:** PINT, ELAB, NU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005